

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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UNCLAS CARACAS 1807

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, VE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ' REACTION TO NEW YORK
TIMES STORY ALLEGING HIS ACCEPTANCE OF
CIA PAYMENTS

REF: CARACAS 1806

1. CARACAS MORNING PRESS OF FEBRUARY 21 HEADLINED
AND FRONT-PAGED EXTRAORDINARILY TOUGH STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PEREZ
REJECTING AS FALSE THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY WHICH
ALLEGES HE RECEIVED PAYMENTS FROM CIA WHILE MINISTER
OF INTERIOR (1962-63). PEREZ ASSERTS USG IS OBLIGED
TO DENY STORY WHICH DOES INJURY TO VENEZUELA'S
CHIEF OF STATE, AND ADDS THAT THE ACCUSATIONS COULD
NOT HAVE BEEN MADE EXCEPT PURSUANT TO PLANS WHICH
COMPROMISE HIGH LEVELS OF USG. THE SINCERITY OF
PURPOSE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, HAS
BEEN PUT TO A TEST. THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE I HAVE LEARNED WITH INDIGNATION OF THE
INFAMOUS PLOT AGAINST THE INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY
OF VENEZUELA. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO INTERPRET
THE BASE IMPUTATION MADE AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF
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VENEZUELA, WHICH IS THE OFFICE I HOLD WITH HONOR
AND WITHOUT STAIN, IN ACCUSING ME OF HAVING RECEIVED
MONEY FROM THE CIA.

3. OUT OF RESPECT TO MYSELF, I SHOULD NOT REPLY
TO THE VILE STORY IN WHICH AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO DIS-
QUALIFY ME MORALLY. VENEZUELA KNOWS IT CAN HAVE

CONFIDENCE. IT KNOWS ALSO THAT AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO MAKE US PAY GROTESQUELY FOR OUR IRREVOCABLE DECISION TO EXERCISE OUR SOVEREIGNTY IN ORDER TO BECOME OWNERS OF OURSELVES.

4. THE NATIONALIZATION OF STEEL AND PETROLEUM, OUR IRREVOCABLE POSITION ON BACKING OPEC, THE SEVERE BUT RESPONSIBLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ABUSES OF TRANSNATIONAL CAPITALISM AND OUR FRANK AND DECIDED THIRD WORLD POSTURE ARE THE CAUSES OF THIS RE-PREHENSIBLE MANEUVER AGAINST VENEZUELA ATTEMPTING THE MORAL DISQUALIFICATION OF ITS PRESIDENT.

5. THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD IS MOVED BY THE FACT THAT THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH, WHICH PROCLAIMS THE VALUES OF DEMOCRACY AND WHICH EXALTS LIBERTY AND THE DIGNITY OF MAN SHOULD HARBOR A PUTREFACT ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS AS ITS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE THE CORRUPTION OF MEN AND PEOPLES, WHICH WHEN THEY DO NOT BEND TO ITS DESIGN ARE BURIED IN MUD AND ACCUSED OF BEING ITS SERVANTS KNOWING THE WORLDWIDE REPUDIATION CAUSED BY ALL CONTACT WITH THAT ORGANIZATION OF CRIME WITH NO FRONTIERS OR ETHICAL BARRIERS.

6. THE UNITED STATES GAVE A UNIVERSAL EXAMPLE UPON DECIDING TO REMOVE ITS PRESIDENT AND MORE RECENTLY, PRESIDENT CARTER ASSUMED THAT SUPREME OFFICE EMPHASIZING THE RESCUE OF THE ETHICAL VALUES OF THAT GREAT NATION. THE DEEP AND NOBLE CONCEPT OF JUSTICE WHICH ILLUMINATES UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS HAVE CREATED AN EXPECTATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS FULL OF HOPE FOR THE WORLD WHICH IS DEBATED IN THE MIDST OF THE MORAL DISSOLUTION EMANATING FROM THOSE LARGE CENTERS OF POWER THEMSELVES.

7. VENEZUELA FEELS THREATENED. IT IS BEYOND BELIEF THAT THE MENDACIOUS ACCUSATION PUBLISHED BY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWSPAPERS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE MENTION OF THE CIA AS A SOURCE, WERE NOT MADE EXCEPT IN OBEDIENCE TO PLANS WHICH COMPROMISE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF THE (U.S.) GOVERNMENT. THE SINCERITY OF PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER IS PUT TO A HARD TEST. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS OBLIGED, BEFORE THE VENEZUELAN NATION, INJURED IN THE PERSON OF ITS CHIEF OF STATE, TO DENY THE MENDACIOUS IMPUTATION WHICH CAUSES INDIGNATION.

8. THE DIGNITY OF VENEZUELA AND THE HONESTY OF THOSE WHO GOVERN IT CANNOT BE THE OBJECT OF SUCH

IGNOBLE ATTACKS THAT COME FROM A NATION SO COMMITTED
TO A WAY OF LIFE AND TO A CONDUCT WHICH SERVES MAN
AND LIBERTY. END QUOTE.
VAKY

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